

November 1998

## Oregon Trails - Booklover Heaven

Thomas W. Leonhardt

*Oregon Institute of Technology*, [leonhardt@oit.edu](mailto:leonhardt@oit.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Leonhardt, Thomas W. (1998) "Oregon Trails - Booklover Heaven," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 10: Iss. 5, Article 33.

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3012>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact [epubs@purdue.edu](mailto:epubs@purdue.edu) for additional information.



# Oregon Trails — Booklover Heaven

by **Thomas W. Leonhardt** (Oregon Institute of Technology) <leonhart@oit.edu>

When I was a boy we moved frequently. My father was in the Army when I was born and so I was an Army brat from 1943 on. Growing up on the move marks a person for life.

Moving was an upheaval that got worse as I got older, but when I was younger it was accepted as a matter of fact. Military life was based on order and discipline and when the order came, we packed up and moved on, always arriving at our new home ahead of our household goods.

Along with inconsequential furniture, at least to me, were the toys that I had watched disappear into boxes and barrels and had then forgotten. And by forgetting them, I made them almost new again, much like what happens when running into old friends or acquaintances who have not really been forgotten but relegated into a part of our memory that holds onto images until we need them again. Meeting them again after months or years brings a recognition that these folks are a part of my life, my history and that in some way, sometimes small, sometimes profound, have helped shape who I am. These re-introductions have been a part of my professional career, now on its 26th year and are what makes professional meetings so valuable after reaching the point where I have to look at my name badge to see which city I am in, which conference I am attending, and where I am presently living.

As a boy I found that my toys followed me to be re-discovered and appreciated for the memories they brought back and the joy they bestowed on me beyond, I think, what they did for me when they were new. Recently I had the same experience with a box of books that had not accompanied me to Oregon last year when I moved back West.

One of the books I re-discovered was a folded broadside with a paper cover, number 34 of 120 copies of which the first twenty were signed by the author, **Elizabeth Sewell**. It was published by the Unicorn Press of Greensboro, North Carolina in 1980 with illustrations by **Beaudin**. I had never really paid much attention to the poem and don't even remember when I acquired the piece but knew that it was back in the days when I still sought inexpensive examples of fine printing, never mind the subject.

Another book. *Poetry: Fine Letterpress Printing: Paper Marbling: Private Press*. For over two decades, **The Heyeck Press** has been printing and publishing both fine limited editions and paperback editions of contemporary poetry and books on paper marbling. All of the books are printed letterpress by **Robin Heyeck**, using metal type and a hand-fed platen press. Fine edition books are printed

on dampened handmade paper and are bound in hand-marbled paper or silk. Poets include **Adrienne Rich, Frances Mayes, Edward Kleinschmidt, Sandra Gilbert, Sharon Olds, William Dickey, Barbara Crooker, Bernard Gershenson, Charlotte Muse, Honor Johnson, Abby Niebauer, Susan MacDonald, Gary Cooke, and Frank Cady**.

I read the poems this time, probably for one good reason. A couple of days earlier, I had been visited by **Robin and John Heyeck** of the **Heyeck Press** ([www.heyeckpress.com](http://www.heyeckpress.com)). Robin teaches English at the **College of San Mateo** and is the printer and artist who makes marbled paper. John, retired from the **San Francisco Symphony** for which he served as its business manager, is the publisher. When I first met John he was in charge of administrative services at the **Stanford University Libraries**. John and I hadn't seen each other in years, and I did not know his wife but as we talked and I had a chance to look at some of their books, the years and unfamiliarity slipped away as the names of other Bay Area printers came to mind.

Also in that box, and also with Stanford connections were a copy of the February 27, 1978 issue of *AB Bookman's Weekly*, a book fair guide, and a bookseller's catalog. The *AB Bookman's Weekly* was subtitled "**David Magee Memorial Issue**." **David Magee** was a San Francisco bookseller, an antiquarian, a scholar of sorts, and a bookman in the best sense of the word. I was fortunate to begin my library career at Stanford and being the gifts and exchange librarian gave me experiences I could not have had in any other job. One of those experiences was David Magee, perhaps the most revered bookseller in the City's history. Despite his high stature in the San Francisco world of books and fine printing, he was a kind, generous man who would walk around with me examining recent gifts and asking me what I thought they were worth. He would thoughtfully move my estimate up or down, tell me why, and then lead me through my stacks in search of sleepers hidden among the usual popular, literary, and scholarly titles that I saw every week. After first reading *Infinite Riches*, Magee's autobiography, I asked him to sign it, which he did. I then worked up the nerve to ask if I could apprentice with him on weekends but he graciously said no, that he was semi-retired and not up to the strain (my word, not his).

The **First Chicago International Antiquarian Book Fair** was held in 1976, and this little guide gives the floor plan of The Prudential Building auditorium and an alphabetical list of the exhibitors and their representatives along with the booth numbers. The guide and a ticket were presented to me by

the late **Franklin Gilliam** of the **Brick Row Book Shop**, 251 Post Street, San Francisco. I got to know Franklin as I got to know David Magee, through visits to my Gifts & Exchange Division to provide estimates and advice about the gifts that I was responsible for. Who else could have followed David Magee but Franklin Gilliam.

*A Bookseller's Cabinet: Mostly Bibliography* is a catalog of books for sale by **Jeff Weber**, son of **David C. Weber**, director emeritus of the **Stanford University Libraries** who took an interest in me when I worked for him at Stanford in the early 1970s. Jeff is a third generation librarian (UCLA) who followed his dream and became a dealer in rare books. Jeff's catalogs are catalogs in the real sense. The books he is selling are well described though succinctly. And they are bound in attractive paper wraps that beg to be collected. I am reminded that I am no longer on his mailing list and will write tomorrow and ask to be reinstated. (P.O. Box 3368, Glendale, CA 91221-0368) (Jeff's grandfather and David's father was **Carl Weber**, distinguished librarian at **Colby College** for many years.)

What else was in this box? *Printing and the Mind of Man: Catalogue of the Exhibitions at the British Museum and at Earls Court*, London, 16-27 July 1963, a virtual history of printing up to the date of the exhibit. There is no real personal association except that a fine copy of it was used in some of the history of the book exhibits that I used to help set up in the old Rare Books and Special Collections Room in the **Doe Library** at **UC Berkeley** before the books and staff moved into the re-decorated, gracious surroundings of the **Bancroft Library**.

There is *Book Stalking at Home and Abroad* by the late **Jake Zeitlin**, a Los Angeles antiquarian bookseller of distinction and Jeff Weber's mentor. There are two books by **Lawrence Clark Powell**, *Books in My Baggage* and *The Little Package*. All librarians would profit from reading Powell's writings, especially his essays, "What's Wrong With Librarians," and "The Elements of a Good Librarian," both of which are to be found in *The Little Package*. With the Powell books was *Lawrence Clark Powell: The Catalog: A List of Books, Essays, Articles* and other items by and about L.C.P. for sale by **Books West Southwest** (2452 North Campbell Avenue, Tucson, Arizona 85719, 520/326-3533) issued by **W. David Laird**, Owner/Manager/Cataloger and retired director of the **University of Arizona Libraries**.

As reminders of how much I have forgotten about the making and history of books and printing, I also unboxed **Esdaile's Manual of Bibliography** and **McKerrow's An Intro-**

*continued on page 76*



# sotto voce — Seeing Beyond Problems

by **Bob Schatz** (Vice-President of Sales, Academic Book Center) <bobs@acbc.com>



The July 31st edition of the *Chronicle of Higher Education* includes an interesting article about the rising, and complex, problem of non-university members invading libraries to gain access to the Internet. As those of you who are already dealing with this in your libraries know, this problem exists in a number of layers: The number of outsiders using library computers are keeping students and faculty from having access for "legitimate" use related to their research and studies. (Will we someday watch a movie about how the cure for a particularly nasty disease was missed because the potential discoverer could not access a library computer to complete his/her research?)

Some users, mainly young males, are viewing, and sometimes saving as wallpaper, pornographic images. (And we're not talking about reproductions of the Birth of Venus either.) If you think that we can all agree that this type of access is probably not something that most universities will find appropriate, the article points out that some librarians have been accused of exercising unacceptable censorship for chastising boys, some as young as nine years old, for viewing adult sites on library computers. There is mounting concern that libraries will be held liable for corrupting these young boys when their particular use of library computers is discovered by parents. From a public relations standpoint, let alone a legal one, worry runs deep in most university libraries experiencing this phenomenon.

This problem is being analyzed and dealt with on a number of fronts in the effected communities. Policies are being examined and rewritten, papers are being published (in-

cluding one to come out soon in the *Journal of Informational Ethics*), and librarians are grappling with the effects of having to add "Internet-access police" to their already many responsibilities.

I don't have any glib solutions to offer to this growing problem. It fascinates me, though, how changing technologies bring these unexpected consequences. While on the surface, this may strike outsiders as something funny, I don't doubt the real and significant impact this has on libraries already straining to efficiently serve their community of users.

What really interests me, though, is the absence in the article of anyone who is dealing with this issue as an opportunity. In twenty years of working with guys like **Dan Halloran** and **Barry Fast**, I've learned to always look for opportunities within problems. I think one exists even here. Try this out as an idea:

While these kids are today straining library resources and raising legitimate ethical concerns about access and censorship, they are also potential future members of the same academies they're invading. Instead of prohibiting access to computers by non-university personnel, how about creating "visitor's computer room" in the library and placing it as far from the front door as possible? I'd be particularly concerned that pre-university age kids have access to it. The reason for placing this room at the far end of the library would not be to discourage kids from using it. On the contrary, it would be there to have an excuse to show every kid going there just how cool libraries can be. I'd make sure the route there went past, if not through, the map room, special collections, the periodicals collection, and every other library locale that might con-

ceivably pique the interest of

an adolescent. Carpe Kiddum. If you pass by interesting things enough times, the law of averages says eventually somebody will stop to take a closer look. (Yeah, yeah. I know. That then creates other issues of access, but I'm not going to ignore that for now.)

Is anyone polling the outsider kids who use university library computers to see who they are? I'm willing to bet that many of them come from homes that don't have computers, though some are just there to keep from getting caught viewing smut on their home PCs. If I'm right, many of these kids may not think of themselves as future university attendees. Yet here they are, hanging out on university campuses. Before we think of effective ways to throw their sorry butts off campus, I hope we'll seize the opportunity to show them what neat places universities and libraries can be. If we make them feel unwelcome now, even though they are creating problems for more legitimate library users, will we stifle their willingness to be a part of the academy in the future? Some of them, too, represent people who will discover cures to diseases or invent ways to improve our lives. Most, though, are just people for whom a college education represents a first step in creating more hope for themselves and their immediate families. Today's hormonal 12-year-old boy may be tomorrow's young adult looking for a way to have a life just a little better than his parents. Let's think about his needs too before we send him back out onto the streets. 🌱

## Academic Book Trends from page 73

ties might. Buying from bestseller lists, for instance, is a form of, "I'll have whatever she's having." To a different extent, so is buying from a peer-library comparison list, or from a list of "best books," or from *Books for College Libraries*.

An interesting case in point was described in the **Back Talk** column from *Against the Grain*, in June, 1998 (vol. 10, no. 3, p.94). In that column, **Stewart Lillard**, of the University of North Carolina in Charlotte, compared a list of **Yankee Book Peddler's** best-selling Physics titles to his collection, and found that his library already owned thirty of the fifty best sellers. In an editorial note at the end of the article, **Katina Strauch** describes the reaction of her Physics liaison at the College of Charleston, who saw the list and said, "Order whatever we don't have!" Katina asks: Are bestseller lists important selection tools? Librarians would probably agree that, in many ways, they are. Are approval plans best seller lists? Not at all—though vendors may wish, from time to time, that they were. 🌱

## Oregon Trails from page 74

duction to *Bibliography*. **Philip Gaskell's** *A New Introduction to Bibliography* was not in the box and is not on my shelves, so it must be in another box. If you are wondering about books by **Fredson Bowers**, I never owned any and probably never will. There might have been a time, but now he is just too clinical. I do wonder, however, what he would make of all this electronic stuff.

For some reason, most of the books in this box have some personal association beyond just being a favorite book, although one of my favorites, *From Here to Eternity*, happened to be in the box, too. But I am talking about something like my copy of **R.L. Stevenson's** *Silverado Squatters*, printed by the **Grace Hoper Press** and for sale at the **Silverado Museum** in St. Helena, California (Napa Valley). My copy was given to me, along with a tour of the museum, by a library school classmate, **Steven Corey**, who along with **Norman H. Strouse**, the museum's benefactor, and **Ellen Shaffer**, long-time curator of the museum, put the collection together. Sadly, none of the three are with us any longer, and Steve passed on way too soon but not before showing a discriminating taste in rare books and fine printing. His collection was offered for sale in a special catalog issued by the **Brick Row Book Shop** but after **Franklin Gilliam** had sold the shop and moved away.

continued on page 80



## Other Side of the Street from page 66

can cover anthropological implication of red ants in the Andes or zoospore distribution in inner city America. No skills necessary, ever again.


**Where Have All the Shelves Gone: Storage in an Era of Virtual Space.** Instructor: David Copperfield. Art 321. Prerequisite: A rabbit and a hat. Taught by the magician extraordinaire, this workshop provides the novice with a set of basic techniques to make ranges, shelves and even floors of books vanish into thin air and reappear at the fifty-yard line of your institution's football stadium at half-time of the big homecoming game. Learn to levitate whole volumes of the heaviest (in terms of isotopes) serials and drop them into the Dean's office whose star professor uses this information at least once every two years. Also, discover innovative sight gags that allow you to turn promises into monetary reality. Recommended for deans and department heads.

**The Dark Side of Publishing.** Instructor: Jamaal Swinerind (pseudonym). Lit 333. Prerequisite: Confession or similar activity. See instructor for approval. A definitive and intensive survey by a once top publishing executive who is now in the Federal Witness Protection Program, this distance-learning course will answer all of the following questions. 1. Why do publishers charge at least twice as much for cloth titles when they only cost a few dollars more than a paper edition? 2. Why do publishers rely solely on institutions to support their serial publications? 3. Do publishers really know what WIPO is? 4. What is the difference between profit margin and profit mania? No cameras or recording devices will be allowed.

**Customer Service: Who Needs It?** Instructor: to be announced. ConsumerSci 900. Prerequisite: Some knowledge of dental tools. Primarily aimed at the Reference librarian, this course asks the question "What if?" Participants will be presented with the "no customer" scenario (i.e. what if you had a library and no one came). Tasks will include beating boredom by completing the *Sunday New York Times*' crossword puzzle, preventing Carpal Tunnel Syndrome by using antiquated techniques to search the Web, deciding on how many times your phone should ring before you pick it up, and using creative ways to say that it's just not your job.

**Surveillance and Security.** Instructor: Jane Reno. CriminalJust 486. Prerequisite: No criminal record. As library walls "come tumbling down" and self-service innovation eliminates jobs, take the first step toward a new career. Drawing on her vast knowledge of crisis situations, Reno provides ten key, core skills for use in finding employment in the high-paying security field. Learn how to operate a concealed camera, to record even your closest friends' phone conversations, and to get in the "back door" of almost any computer system. Transform yourself into a sleuth




with the flair of Bond, the guile of Mata Hari, and the cunning of Kim Philby. Enrollment limited. Sign up now! Call 1-800-GET-REAL. 

## Oregon Trails from page 76

There are just a couple more items left to mention, both associated with a book collector and a bookseller who is still very much alive and very active, a true bibliographer, too, who has more book stories than *Aesop* had fables. I don't know how these two keepsake books got separated from the others that are on a bookshelf in my office at work, a reminder of a librarian's roots, but they did. I am glad that they ended up in this particular box of books with good memories and associations but sad reminders of book people no longer with us except in spirit.

The two keepsake books in this magical box were New Year's gifts from **Blackwell's**, selected by **John J. Walsdorf** and mailed under his signature. Jack collects many authors and genres but he is best known for his interest in **William Morris**, so it was no surprise when the 1990 keepsake was *William Morris: Master Printer* by **Frank Colebrook** with an introduction by

**William S. Peterson**. The book was designed by **Neil Shaver** at the **Yellow Barn Press** (Council Bluffs, Iowa) and has woodcuts by **John DePol**. Showing Jack's range of bibliographical interests, the 1992 keepsake was *My Two Oxfords* by the Mississippi writer **Willie Morris**. Again, the book was designed by **Neil Shaver**, printed by the **Yellow Barn Press**, and illustrated with wood engravings by **John DePol**.


There is an old country song called "Hillbilly Heaven." If you don't know the song—it has been recorded by several singers—it is a tribute to some of the great country singers of all time going back to the **Carter Family**, **Jimmie Rogers**, and so on. As the names of these revered singers are recited, the singer adds his or her own name to it and then wakes up. If I dreamed I was in **Booklover Heaven**, all those associated with the books in this one box would be there and I hope that when the roll call is sounded, I will wake up and know that my bibliographic entry, and Jack's, still have open dates. 

## Papa Lyman from page 78

p.135 of this work that the "great" 9th may be used "profitably" etc? I haven't had my hands on a 9th or even an 11th for years but I'll wager that Sheehy's advice is still valid.

As I remember it, the *Century Encyclopedia* was the most used. It's been so long since I've seen a *Century* I can't give a proper bibliographic description of it—it's even gone from my Wilson's Cumulative Book Index 1928-1932... Of course we had sets of the *Complete Works of...* (famous authors). My friend **Cliff Hillegass** had not come out with his *Cliff's Notes* until many years later—1958.

We were also fortunate to have a better than average public library, named **Beck-Bookman Library**. It was not then a publicly funded library—The Beck family, contemporaries and peers of **William Allen White**, a leading Kansas newspaper publisher, were the prime supporters along with several "literary" clubs.

Now that I'm started on the subject I'll include more about Kansas public libraries in my story about the Ellis Collection—next time. 

## Bibliography

Mason, Alexandria. *John Gould, His Birds & Beasts, An Exhibit In the Department of Special Collections, Kenneth Spencer Research Library. Un. of Kansas, Friends of the Library* 1981.

Mengel, R.M., compiler. *A Catalogue of the Ellis Collection of Ornithological Books In the University of Kansas Libraries, Vol. 1, A-B.* Lawrence 1972.

*Ibid.* Vol. 2, C-D., edited by Alexandra Mason and James Helyar. Lawrence 1983.

Quinlan, N.J. I Hawkins, N., eds. *Books and Libraries, 18.* Un. of Kansas Libraries, Lawrence, Fall 1981.

Vosper, R. *A Pair of Bibliomanes For Kansas: Ralph Ellis and Thomas Jefferson Fitzpatrick.* Reprinted by permission from the *Papers of Bibliographical Society of America*. Volume Fifty-five, Third Quarter, 1961.

Webb, Bernice L. *The Basketball Man, James Naismith.* Un. Kansas Press 1972. 3rd printing, updated, 1994. Kappelman's Historic Collections, Lawrence.

*Wilson's Cumulative Book Index 1928-32.*